

from filling with sand, and may exercise such powers in the same way and under the same rules and regulations as are prescribed in this act for drainage lowlands by opening the streams as fully as the power given in the foregoing sections.

SEC. 9. That nothing contained in this act shall prevent the building of public bridges on public roads across said streams, or private bridges on roads by the landowners for their own convenience: *Provided*, the same shall be kept clear from rubbish.

Public and private bridges.

Bridges to be kept free from rubbish.

SEC. 10. That nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to exempt persons herein mentioned from working on the public roads.

No exemption from road work.

SEC. 11. That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

Ratified the 8th day of March, A. D. 1897.

CHAPTER 320.

An act to provide for additional county commissioners.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

SECTION 1. That whenever as many as twelve electors of any county (one-half of whom shall be freeholders) shall make an affidavit before the clerk of the superior court of the county, that they have carefully examined into the business affairs of the county, as managed by the board of county commissioners, elected by the people, and they have ascertained that the board of commissioners have unlawfully and wilfully, or being incompetent have unlawfully and wilfully mismanaged the business affairs of the county; or have unlawfully and corruptly misappropriated or caused to be misappropriated or misapplied any part of the funds of the county; then upon filing such affidavit with the judge of the district, or the judge presiding therein, it shall be the duty of such judge to issue a citation of said board of commissioners requiring them to appear before him at such times and place as he may name, after having given them ten days' notice thereof, stating the particular act or acts constituting the breach of duty complained of, which shall be fully set forth in said affidavit, and answer the charges therein made.

Petition for additional county commissioners.

With judge of district or judge residing therein. Judge to issue citation.

SEC. 2. That if such judge shall be satisfied, after hearing the charges, answers, exhibits and proofs, that the charges made as aforesaid are true, then it shall be his duty to appoint two honest and discreet electors and citizens of said county, who

If petition sustained judge to appoint two commissioners.